### REPORT

OF THE

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

LIEUT -GEN. A. PULLPS; 23, AUGUSTUS ROAD.

#### GLOUCESTER

# Urban Sanitary Authority,

FOR 1880.

Presented to the Sanitary Committee of that Body at the Meeting held February 26, 1881, and Ordered to be Printed.

GLOUCESTER:

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#### REPORT.

I have the honour to present to the Urban Sanitary Authority my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1880.

During that period the health of the City has been on the whole satisfactory. In the quarter, ending September 30th, the large number of 35 deaths from diarrhea were registered, and enquiries were made by the Local Government Board as to the causes which produced this great mortality. Although I investigated carefully, I was not able to detect any special source of disease. I could not find that the deaths occurred in any particular portion of the district. In my reply I stated that I was unable to account for the unusual prevalence of diarrhea during that period.\* Reference to the tables at the end of this Report will show that, with the exception of measles, other zymotic diseases have caused but few deaths. Chicken pox and scarlet fever have each been fatal in one case.

The deaths in each quarter of the year were—

From	January 1,	to	March 31	.186
22.	April 1,	"	June 31	190
,,	July 1,	,,	September 30	.205
,,	October 1,	,,	December 31	.173
				r,
				754

This is a greater number than occurred in the previous year, when 746 deaths were registered. But as the increase of the population has been considerable, the annual death-rate has been lowered. One source of increase is indicated by the erection of about 222 houses, and each of these would average 5 inhabitants.

\* I find that this district is not singular in the number of deaths from diarrhea, as the Registrar General's returns show that in many other places it was prevalent at the same period.

I gather this number from returns furnished me by Mr. Read, who tells me that this number of plans for houses was approved of. In estimating the population of the City, I take all of these into consideration, as I left out in my calculation last year 70 houses, which might not have been completed. I reckon that number still unoccupied. The increase in the population from this source may therefore be estimated at about 1110. The excess of births over deaths during the year is 510. I may, therefore, consider that the present probable population of the City is—

Estimated n	umber	at th	ne end o	f 1879	)	•••	38,090
Excess of bi	rths ov	ver de	eaths in	1880	•••	•••	510
Inhabitants	of 222	new	houses,	at 5	persons	per	
house	••				• • •	•••	1110
					T	otal	39,710

As the number of deaths in the year was 754, the death-rate per 1000 would be 18.9. From the returns issued by the Registrar General I find that the annual death-rate in England and Wales was 20.7 per 1000, in 1880.

A large proportion of the newly-erected houses, and many others also, have been connected with the City water supply. Mr. Read informs me that 405 houses have made such connection, and that 84 have been connected with the City sewers.

In accordance with the regulations laid down by the Local Government Board for the guidance of medical officers of health, it has been my duty on various occasions, when I have presented Reports to the Urban Sanitary Authority, to bring before that body matters which I consider relate to the health of the City. The most prominent of these is the water supply. Every year since the extension of the City boundary I have urged the importance of this question, and I am again compelled to call the attention of the Local Board of Health to it. The facts of the case are these. The present water supply was made for a population considerably less than that which now has a right to

use it. Day by day during many years fresh houses have been connected with the City system. During the year 1880, 405 such connections were made. We have for the last few years had a rainfall considerably above the average. But we cannot expect such a state of things to continue. I must repeat what I said in my last Report. "I apprehend with very great anxiety the occurrence of even a moderately dry season. It will be remembered that when the persons using the City water was several thousands less than at present, if the summer was only moderately dry it became necessary to give for a long period an intermittent supply.\* This is at all times not only a source of great inconvenience to many householders, especially amongst the poor who have no means of storing water, but it is considered by all who are interested in sanitary matters to be a fruitful source of disease."

I am aware that the means of procuring an additional supply have been considered by the Board. But no steps of which I am aware have been taken to remedy the evil which may come upon us during this or any other year. The length of time which it will take to complete any works which may be determined on, the large increase of persons who are now entirely dependent on the City water supply, and the inconvenience which would arise should such supply fall short, as well as the serious effects which such failure would have on the health of the population of the City, are all reasons why I feel compelled to bring this subject once again before the serious attention of the Local Board.

Slaughter-houses.—The inspection of the registered and licensed slaughter-houses has been frequently carried out by Mr. Allen and myself. And we have also inspected and reported on premises for which new licenses have been applied. Although I have been able to report that the legal requirements have been complied with, I cannot but think that many of the old and some of the new premises must be sources of inconvenience and annoyance in the localities in which they are placed. The only

<sup>\*</sup> This was done in 1877.

remedy for these nuisances, which as the houses in the City multiply as they are now doing, will also certainly increase, is the erection of public slaughter-houses, another subject which I have mentioned in my previous reports to this authority.

Dairies and Milk-shops' Act.—During the past year, in accordance with the regulations of this Act, the dairies and milk-shops have been inspected by Mr. Allen and myself.

Smoke Nuisance.—The nuisance arising from chimneys which do not consume their own smoke is still not entirely removed. The proprietors complain, when remonstrated with, that the nuisance is only occasional, and that it is difficult to prevent the appearance of large volumes of smoke when the fires are made up. This is done so frequently—so many times during the day, that, with the large number of chimneys in the City, the atmosphere is being constantly polluted, and I am not sure that the great number of cases of affections of the respiratory organs may not be partly due to this cause. I trust that the investigations which are now being carried on in London, may lead to the discovery of means by which this annoyance may be removed still more completely than we have been able to effect it at present.

Ventilation of Sewers.—The ventilators of the City sewers have caused considerable annoyance to the inhabitants in many parts of the Urban District, in consequence of the escape of highly deleterious and noxious effluvia from them. The subject has been referred to the consideration of the City Surveyor, who has prepared an elaborate report on it, and I hope that, with the assistance of his valuable opinion, steps will be immediately taken to remove a source of nuisance which has been in several instances decidedly injurious to health.

Still Ditch.—Another nuisance which has been repeatedly brought by me before the notice of the Sanitary Committee is the Still Ditch. At the City boundary, in the Bristol Road, a

12-inch pipe has been allowed to enter the open ditch by the road side which forms the boundary. This pipe brings sewage matter from houses situated in the county, and within the Rural Sanitary Authority. The stench arising from the uncovered ditch, which is in effect an open sewer, is sometimes very great, and is a nuisance which ought to be abated. It empties into the Still Ditch, which has been for many years a cause of complaint against the Sanitary Authority. As there appears to be some difficulty in ascertaining the means by which this ditch becomes so polluted and offensive as it is, the only plan which I can suggest for the abatement of the nuisance, is that the portion to which I have alluded in the Bristol Road and the continuation which is exposed in the Hempstead Road, near Llanthony Abbey, should be covered in for such a distance as may be necessary to prevent the escape of the offensive smells which now constantly arise.

Meat and Fish Market.—I have constantly inspected the markets, either with Mr. Allen or alone. I have not had occasion to take any steps during the past year with reference to either bad meat or unwholesome fish.

The Skin Depots and Bake-houses have been under the constant supervision of the Inspector and myself. We have not found it necessary to use any interference, as they have always been in good order.

The Hospital for Infectious Diseases was used once during the year for a case of scarlet fever, which occurred in the City. The patient, who was an assistant in a tradesman's shop, was removed from the house immediately on the appearance of the disease, and the infection did not spread.

The Registered Lodging-houses have been frequently visited, both by day and night. Their condition has been satisfactory.

Returns of Births, Sickness, and Deaths.—The tables appended to this Report are compiled as heretofore, from returns furnished by the Registrars, and from the books of the General Infirmary and the Children's Hospital. I regret that I am not able to make them still more complete by adding statistics from the Provident Dispensary. The Secretary informed me that he was not able to supply me with any returns of cases of illness.

The detail of the work done by the Inspector, Mr. G. Allen, and myself, has been presented to the Sanitary Committee of this Authority at the meetings of that body, which take place every I am able to report with great pleasure that I have found as hitherto but little difficulty in carrying out the functions entrusted to me. The recommendations, which it has been my duty to make to the owners and occupiers of houses, have almost without exception been accepted, and alterations which I have suggested have been made. In the discharge of my duty I have had the valuable aid and co-operation of Mr. Read, the City Mr. Allen and Mr. Lowe have afforded me every assistance in their power. Without the help and support of the Sanitary Committee my duties would often have been difficult For that support and for the confidence which to perform. they have invariably reposed in me I beg to tender my most hearty thanks.

JOHN P. WILTON,

Medical Officer of Health to the Gloucester Urban Sanitary Authority.

## TABLE OF BIRTHS REGISTERED IN THE URBAN DISTRICT.

MALES. FEMALES.	
173176	
158167	
122148	
609 655 Total19	264
•	MALES. FEMALES156164173176158167122148148

#### TABLE OF SICKNESS.

Amongst Paupers belonging to the Urban District treated by the Medical Officers of the Union; and of other persons belonging to the District treated as In or Out-patients at the Gloucester General Infirmary, the Children's Hospital, and at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

	PAU	PERS	IN-PA	TIENTS	OUT-PATIENTS		
	Under 5 years of age	Over 5 years of age	Under 5 years of age	Over 5 years of age	Under 5 years of age	Over 5 years of age	
All cases of sickness & disease Measles	44	945 35	43 3	415	612	2537 	
Chicken Pox		1	- 1 	 1	•••	•••	
Diphtheria Croup (not Spasmodic) Hooping Cough	 5	$egin{array}{c} \cdots \ 2 \end{array}$	 1 1	1	$egin{array}{c} \ 2 \ 24 \end{array}$	 13	
Enteric Fever		38	1	8 3	1 1	$\frac{13}{2}$	
Diarrhœa	53	80 2	4		89	37 	
Erysipelas	•••	7 15	1	11		 56	
monia	14	57 7	•••	$\frac{27}{4}$	2	63 6	
Injuries Other Diseases		38 658	$\frac{4}{26}$	$\begin{array}{c} 91 \\ 260 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 68 \\ 423 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 611 \\ 1746 \end{array}$	

### TABLE OF DEATHS

WITHIN THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF GLOUCESTER IN 1880.

The arrangement is the same as that which I used in my three last Reports, and was copied by me from that which has been adopted by Dr. WRIGHT, the Medical Officer of Health for Cheltenham.

	,									
			AGES	AT D	EATH.			\$	SEXES	3.
CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1	and under 5	5 and under 20	20 and under 40	40 and under 60	60 and under 80	over 80	Males	Femls.	Total
Class I.—Zymotic Diseases.										
Order 1.—MIASMATIC DISEASES	40	60	14	11	3	6	1	71	64	135
Chicken Pox	4 1 7 1  26  1 	1 2 29 1 17 2 	2 1 5 2  1 3 	 5 1 1  3 	1 1 	 2  2  1 	1	1 1 7 2 22 6 1 24 2 1 	3 2 19 6 1 25 3 1 4 	1 10 4 41 12 2 49 5 2 4 1 1 2
Order 2.—Enthetic	3	3		1	3	•••	•••	6	4	10
Syphilis Stricture of Urethra	3	3	• •••	1			•••	3 3	4	7 3
Class II. — Constitutional Diseases.								:		
Order 1.—Diathetic	•••	•••	1	4	12	10	1,	6	22	28
Gout	•••	•••		 1 2 1 	1 11 	1 2 5 2	1,	-1 -2 3 	2 4 14 2	1 2 6 17 2
Order 2.—Tubercular	20	10	20	38	17	5	•••	49	61	110
Tuberculosis Scrofula	 13 2 3 1 1	1 1 4  2 2 	3  3 6 2 6 	2 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	2  14  1	 4  1	•••	3 1 10 26 3 4 2	5 1 10 29 4 9	8 2 20 55 7 13 5
Carried forward	63	73	35	54	35	21	2	132	151	283

#### TABLE OF DEATHS

WITHIN THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF GLOUCESTER IN 1880, CONTINUED.

					•			· ·			
		AGES AT DEATH.							SEXES.		
CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1	and under 5	5 and under 20	20 and under 40	40 and under 60	60 and under 80	over 80	Males	Femls	Total	
Brought forward	63	73	35	54	35	21	2	132	151	283	
Class III.—Local Diseases.											
Order 1:-Nervous System	24	10	3	6	14	31	4	50	42	92	
Diseased Spinal Cord		2	 1  1  	2  1   1 2	5 1 1 1 2  1 2	7 18 1  1 4  	3  1  	5 9 2 1 3 9 17 1 2 1	9 13 3  2 12 1 2	14 22 5 1 3 11 29 2 4 1	
Order 2.—Organs of Circulation	1	1	3	4	13	21	1	25	19	44	
Angina Pectoris Pericarditis	1	1	2  1 	4.  	12  1	20 1 	1	23 1  1	18	41 1 1	
Order 3.—RESPIRATORY ORGANS	. 52	17	11	5	20	23	4	79	53	132	
Atelectasis  Asthma  Bronchitis  Pneumonia  Congestion of Lungs	1 1 41 10	 15 1  1	4 7	1 2 2 	 1 4 10 1 2  2	1  20 2  	 3 1 	1 1 53 21  1	 1 36 12 1 1 1	1 1 2 89 33 1 2	
Order 4.—DIGESTIVE ORGANS	. 3	1	2	5	.11	19	2	19	24	43	
Dyspepsia Hæmatemesis Gastrodynia Stomach Disease Ulcer of Stomach Enteritis Ulcer of Bowel		1		 .1  1  .1 	 1  2  8	3  1  9 1 1		1  1  3 1 1  3 1 7 1	 1 1 1  1 1 4 12 2 1	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 4 1 1 1 4 5 19 3 1	
Carried forward	143	102	54	74	93	115	13	305	289	594	

### TABLE OF DEATHS

WITHIN THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF GLOUCESTER IN 1880, CONTINUED.

CONTINUED.											
		AGES AT DEATH.						SEXES.			
CAUSES OF DEATH.		Under 1	and under 5	5 and under 20	20 and under 40	40 and under 60	60 and under 80	over 80	Males	Femls.	Total
Brought forward	•••	143	102	54	74	93	115	13	305	289	594
Class III.—Local Disea											
Order 5.—URINARY ORGANS	•••		•••	1	2	3	8	2	12	4	16
Diabetes	•••			1		1	1		3		3
Bright's Disease	•••		•••		2	1	3	•••	4	2	6
Disease of Kidney	•••		•••	•••		1	2		1	2	3
,, Bladder Cystitis	•••		•••	•••	•••	•••	1 1	2	3	•••	3
		1						•••	1		
Order 6Connected with Parturi	rion	1	•••	•••	3	2	•••	•••	•••	5	5
Parturition	•••			• • .	1	1	•••			2	2
Placenta Prævia	•••	• • • •	• • •	•••	$\bar{2}$		•••	• • •	•••	$\frac{1}{2}$	2
Cellutitis	•••		•••	•••	•••	1	•••		•••	1	1
Order 7.—ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION	•••		•••	•••	2		1	•••		3	3
Lumbar Abscess Chronic Abscess	•••	•••	•••		2	•••	1	•••	•••	$\frac{2}{1}$	$\frac{2}{1}$
Order 8.—Malformations	•••	1		•••	•••			•••		1	1
Spina Bifida	•••	1	•••	•••	•••	•••		•••		1	1
Class IV. — Developmen Disease. Order 1.—Diseases of Children		4.0	8	٦					90	00	
	•••		0	1	•••	•••	••	• • •	32	23	55
Premature Birth	•••	17		•••				•••	7	10	17
Debility from Birth Teething	•••	$\begin{array}{c c} 22 \\ 7 \end{array}$	$\frac{2}{6}$	1	•••	•••		•••	18 7	$\begin{bmatrix} 7 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$	25 13
Order 2.—Disease of Nutrition	•••	8	4	•••	•••		••	•••	6	6	12
Atrophy	•••	8	4	•••	•••	•••	••	•••	6	6	12
Order 3.—Diseases of Aged	•••	•••	•••	••1	•••	•••	18	23	20	21	41
Old Age					•••		18	<b>2</b> 3	20	21	41
Class V.—Violent Deaths	•••	1	5	3	1	2	3	1	10	6	16
Burns	•••		1	1	•••	•••			1	1	2
Scalded	•••		1	•••	•••	•••		•••	i		1
Drowned	•••		1			•••		•••	1		1
Accident Suicide	•••	1	2	2	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	5 2	4	9
Not Classified	•••	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	6	5	11
Sudden—not ascertained—or car not specified or ill defined	ıses	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	6	5	11
Total		200	121	60	83	102	147	41	391	363	
	-	1	)	1						1	

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m ~1	55
10	132
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14	188
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භ <b>6</b> 1	48
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2 9	121
17	200
60	754
105 99	1264
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Nov Dec	
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OF THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF GLOUCESTER, FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1880.

The estimated population of the City at the end of 1879 was 38,090.

#### TABLE OF INQUESTS

HELD IN THE

CITY OF GLOUCESTER DURING THE YEAR 1880, ON THE

## BODIES OF PERSONS WHO, DURING THEIR LIVES, BELONGED TO THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Lovegrove, the City Coroner, for the returns from which this table is compiled.

DATE.		DESCRIPTION OF DECEASED.		AGE.	VERDICT.
1880.					
January 1000.	20	A man	. 28	years	Natural causes
				Jenza	Travalar Causes
February	24	A male child	5	,,	Accidental death
<b>,,</b> ,	,,	A woman	20	,,	Natural causes
,, ·	27	A male child	3	);"	Accidental death
March	5			,,	Ditto
,,	15	A male child	6	,,	Ditto
22.5	17	A woman	61	,,	Natural causes
,, .	22	A male child	6	months	Ditto
April	13	A man	54	years	Accidental death
3.4					
May	14		52	,,	Suicide-Temporary insanity
,,-	25	A man	60	,,	Ditto ditto
T., 1	اح	A man			To:
July	5	A	Ť	,,	Ditto ditto
,,	26	A man	38	"	Accidental death
August	2	A female child	2	99.5	Ditto
,,	9	A female child	10	,,	Ditto
,,	21	A man	47	,,	Natural causes
,				"	- Institut outdoor
October	11	A man	25	,,	Accidental death
				,,	
November	15	A man	43	,,	Visitation of God-Apoplexy
December	7	A man	<b>74</b>	,,	Natural causes
22.5	29	A female child	2	,,	Accidentally burnt
,,	,,	A male child	8	,,	Ditto

#### PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

During the past year I inspected three vessels at Sharpness. On board one of them had been a case of small pox, which had been discharged convalescent. I found that disinfection had been efficiently performed. No other case occurred.

Capt. Calway, the Port Sanitary Inspector at Sharpness, communicated with me in July that a vessel had arrived in Kingroad, bound for Gloucester, with a case of small pox on board. The patient was taken on shore at Bristol and the vessel was thoroughly disinfected under the direction of Capt. Calway before she was allowed to enter the port. No other case occurred.

I have also visited six vessels in the canal, on board of which suspicious cases of illness had been reported, but I found nothing of an infectious nature.

During the year the following cases of illness amongst foreign sailors were received into the Gloucester General Infirmary.

Injuries	•••	• • •	• • •	9
INTERMITTENT FEVER	• • •	• • •	• • •	2
ENTERIC FEVER	•••	•••	• • •	5
FEBRICULA	• • •	• • •	• • •	4
Acute Rheumatism	• • •	• • •	c • •	2
OTHER DISEASES	• • •	• • •	• • •	14

All these patients were discharged cured.

JOHN P. WILTON,

Medical Officer of Health to the Gloucester Port Sanitary Authority.

